CLAIMS

1. Means for enabling actuation of a pointing device (3, 4), **characterised** by an activity sensor for sensing activation of the pointing device, said activity sensor comprising a threshold comparator (10), wherein the activity sensor is adapted to enable energization of the pointing device (3, 4) when the sensed activation of the pointing device exceeds a threshold.

2. Means for enabling actuation of a pointing device according to claim 1, **characterised** in that the threshold is adjustable.

3. Means for enabling actuation of a pointing device according to claim 1 or 2, **characterised** in that activity sensor comprises a timer (11) adapted to switch off the energization of the pointing device (3, 4) after a time has elapsed without any sensed activation of the pointing device (3, 4).

4. Means for enabling actuation of a pointing device according to claim 3, **characterised** in that the time is adjustable.

5. Means for enabling actuation of a pointing device according to any one of claims 1 to 4, **characterised** in that activity sensor comprises a detector device (7, 8, 9) for sensing a capacitance change at the pointing device (3, 4).

6. Means for enabling actuation of a pointing device according to claim 5, **characterised** in that the detector device comprises an oscillator (8) with a resonant circuit (7).

7. Means for enabling actuation of a pointing device according to claim 6, **characterised** in that the capacitance of the pointing device (3, 4) forms part of the resonant circuit (7).

8. Means for enabling actuation of a pointing device according to claim 5, **characterised** in that the detector device comprises a high impedance amplifier.

9. An input device comprising a pointing device (3, 4) and an activity sensor for sensing activation of the pointing device, **characterised** in that said activity sensor comprises a threshold comparator (10), wherein the activity sensor is adapted to enable energization of the pointing device (3, 4) when the sensed activation of the pointing device exceeds a threshold.

10. An input device according to claim 9, **characterised** in that the threshold is adjustable.

11. An input device according to claim 9 or 10, **characterised** in that activity sensor comprises a timer (11) adapted to switch off the energization of the pointing device (3, 4) after a time has elapsed without any sensed activation of the pointing device (3, 4).

12. An input device according to claim 11, **characterised** in that the time is adjustable.

13. An input device according to any one of claims 9 to 12, **characterised** in that activity sensor comprises a detector device (7, 8, 9) for sensing a capacitance change in the pointing device (3, 4).

14. An input device according to claim 13, **characterised** in that the pointing device comprises a ball (4) capacitively connected to the detector device (7, 8, 9).

15. An input device according to claim 14, **characterised** in that the ball (4) is a metallized plastic ball with a plastic or rubber coating.

16. An input device according to claim 14 or 15, **characterised** in that the detector device comprises an oscillator (8) with a resonant circuit (7), the capacitance of ball (4) forming a part of the resonant circuit (7).

17. An input device according to any one of claims 13 to 15, **characterised** in that the detector device comprises a high impedance amplifier.

18. A portable device (1) including a display (2) for showing menus in which navigation may be performed by means of an input device (3, 4), **characterised** in that the input device is according to any one of claims 9 to 17.

19. A portable device according to claim 18, **characterised** in that the portable device is a mobile telephone (1).